

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 904
By Turner M

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Lawrence Francis
Casper of Davidson County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Lawrence Francis Casper; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence Casper was an exemplary public servant, career military man, and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence Casper joined the United States Army in 1940 and dutifully served in the military for twenty-one years, achieving the rank of Command Sergeant Major; he became one of the original Screaming Eagles after the 82nd Airborne Division, was split to form the 101st Airborne Division; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence Casper courageously served this Nation with distinction in World War II as one of those Americans who earned the rightful designation of the “greatest generation”; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence Casper qualified as a gliderman and landed on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day with the 327th Glider Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, Sergeant Casper also fought in the Holland, Bastogne, and Central Europe campaigns, and he distinguished himself and earned the Silver Star for gallantry in action by stopping an enemy tank advance with a bazooka during the Battle of the Bulge; and

WHEREAS, after his valiant service during World War II, Sergeant Casper was assigned to the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team of the 11th Airborne Division and he qualified as a Parachutist in 1947; he made two combat parachute jumps during the Korean Conflict; and

WHEREAS, a decorated and valiant soldier, Sergeant Casper received numerous medals and honors, including the Silver Star, Bronze Star with one Cluster, Purple Heart with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Good Conduct Medal with three Loops, American Defense Service Medal, European Theater of Operations Medal with four Battlestars and one Arrowhead, American Theater Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Occupational Medal, Korean Service Medal with four Battlestars and one Arrowhead, National Defense Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge with Star, Distinguished Unit Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, Belgian Fourraguerre, and the Dutch Orange Lanyard; and

WHEREAS, deeply devoted to his family, Lawrence Casper always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence Casper is survived by his son, Stephen Casper; brothers, Louis Casper and Leonard Casper; and sisters, Roma Dzbinski and Rita Willman; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Casper epitomized the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence Casper leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant, soldier, and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Lawrence Francis Casper, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Command Sergeant Major Casper.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.